

STATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

Boyd

Thirty-second Annual Report
Maryland State Board
Of
Motion Picture Censors



1947-1948

Offices
848 NORTH HOWARD STREET
Baltimore-1, Maryland

HONORABLE WILLIAM PRESTON LANE, JR.,

Governor of Maryland,

Annapolis, Maryland

Dear Governor Lane:

In compliance with the provisions of Section 9 of Chapter 390 of the Acts of 1922 of the General Assembly, as thereafter amended, the Maryland State Board of Motion Picture Censors submits herewith its Thirty-Second Annual Report.

This report sets forth a summary of the work of the department during the fiscal year, July 1, 1947 - June 30, 1948, and includes a statement of the receipts and disbursements contingent upon its operation.

General Statement

Since all films or views exhibited in the State of Maryland must be examined and approved by the Board, as provided in Section 6, and since the volume of business has increased year by year, application to a rigorous reviewing schedule is required. An average of 4.5 feature length films and 6 short subjects is reviewed each day in order to maintain the current schedule of examining all films within 24 hours after the presentation of their application. In addition, the Board supervises the work of the office staff and inspection service. Its proceedings are recorded each week in minutes.

During the fiscal year for which this report is submitted, the Board reviewed 2,565 original films and licensed 16,471 duplicate prints. The total comprises 2,278 original 35mm films, 249 original 16mm films and 38 "soundies." Of these 1,549 were short subjects and 1,016 were features. In its review of 55 foreign-made films, the Board was assisted by committees of nationals from those countries whose products were under consideration. These committees have been most helpful in their translation of idioms and in their interpretation of cultural and moral standards of people whose customs differ from ours.

Receipts and Disbursements

For the fiscal year, funds have reverted to the State Treasury in the amount of \$28,017.26 which is the largest surplus over to be returned since the Board was established. This is especially significant because the disbursements include an increase in salary to the employees and a large capital expenditure for new sound equipment machines. However, cost for materials and services are rising rapidly, as a consequence of which the budgetary demand for the next biennium will greatly increase our disbursements and will provide no such comfortable surplus.

Receipts for the fiscal year were \$72,832.00, and disbursements were \$44,814.74. Detail is provided in Table I.

Work of the Board

Eliminations were ordered in 141 subjects presented for review, and two were rejected in toto, namely: "Confessions of a Vice-Baron," and "The French Nudists or Ten Days in a Nudist Camp." These actions were taken under statutory standards found in Section 6 as follows: "The Board . . . shall disapprove such (films or views) as are sacrilegious, obscene, indecent, inhuman or immoral, or such as tend, in the judgment of the Board, to debase or corrupt morals or incite to crime."

Appeal to the Board for re-examination of deletions ordered by it was taken in only one case, indicating that the decisions of the Board are generally accepted without question by the industry. Appeal to the Courts was not sought on any picture rejected during the period for which this report is made. However, an appeal was taken in re "The Outlaw," rejected in the previous year. The Court sustained the action of the Board and found its decision was not arbitrary. Procedure for appeal both to the Board and to the Court is outlined in Section 19.

In its review of films, the Board uses the following procedure. A member of the Board follows the dialogue, which is submitted with each picture to be reviewed, while another member concentrates upon the screen. When objectionable material appears in either, it is noted and the scene is rescreened. The material to be eliminated is described minutely to enable the applicant to make deletions in accordance with the directions of the Board.

Upon being cut, the film is then returned to the Board for review and approval. This meticulous application of the statute requires experience and skill to be completed effectively.

The Board devises the schedules and supervises the daily reports of its staff of five inspectors. During the year 4,989 inspections were made on 265 theatres; 355 violations were reported and \$674.00 in fees was collected for such violations. Inspectors report films which carry no perforations, seals, or seals too short to be read. They check on the eliminations ordered in prints and on all advertising material used in foyers.

Analyses of Films

An analysis card is kept on each feature film reviewed. Information thereon contains, beside a synopsis of the story, a classification of the film as listed by the National Legion of Decency, The Protestant Council of Churches and the National Board of Review. Tabulation of these findings is impossible because there is too frequent disagreement as to the audience suitability of the same feature. Special data relating to scenes showing crime and violence, and scenes involving questions of sexual immorality are recorded on these cards. Tabulation of this data, to which our standards may be applied, has been completed. In making the tabulation, Westerns have been omitted, since they follow a definite pattern of retribution for all crimes committed and include no scenes involving sexual immorality.

Based on a review of 451 new features, and eliminating from its consideration 91 westerns, the Board noted that in the remaining 360 films, 233 contained scenes of crime or violence, 50 contained scenes involving questions of sexual immorality, divorce being excluded from this category. Pertinent information incident to this research showed that 159 of those films analyzed contained drinking scenes, 55 of which showed drinking to excess.

Public Relations

It is the policy of the Board to accede to all reasonable requests from departments of State or Federal government, and from the industry itself, when the public interest is to be served.

It has accordingly placed its facilities at the disposal of the Maryland State Board of Examiners of the Motion Picture Machine Operators, and has arranged special showings for the campaign Committees of the American Red Cross, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, United Nations Committee, Federal employees of the Custom House and for representatives from the Catholic Church interested in special Catholic films.

Courtesy permits have been issued for the showing of films for educational and charitable purposes to the U. S. Army, Better Baltimore Committee, Baltimore County Fire Department, Baltimore Ski Club, American Red Cross, Maryland Academy of Sciences, American League for Better Palestine, Loyal Order of Moose, Finnish Educational Association, Baltimore Museum of Art, International Workers Order (Ukrainian-American Fraternal Union - Lvov Hospital in Ukraine benefit), International Workers Order (Czechoslovak orphans' benefit).

A financial statement and a statistical summary of the operations of the Board are attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,

HELEN C. TINGLEY, *Chairman*

EVA M. HOLLAND, *Vice-Chairman*

JOHN K. BURKLEY, *Secretary*

August 31, 1948

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1948

Receipts

Fees:

Original Reels—35MM (7,487,801 ft.)	\$16,770.00	
Original Reels—16MM (398,926 ft.)	2,062.00	
Original Reels—16MM (31,800 ft.)	152.00	
(Reversible)		\$18,984.00
Duplicate Reels—35 MM (46,431,062 ft.)	\$52,331.00	
Duplicate Reels—16 MM		
Duplicate Reels—16MM		
(Reversible)		\$52,331.00
Sale of Substitute Seals (1,517)	1,517.00	
		\$72,832.00
Deposited to Credit of State Treasurer		\$72,832.00

Expenses

Salaries:

Board Members	\$ 7,800.00	
Other Employees	27,961.37	
		\$35,761.37

Other Expenses:

Repairs	160.87	
Light, Heat, Power and Water	280.36	
Traveling	996.72	
Communication	758.11	
Printing	153.00	
Contractual, Film Seals	2,387.50	
RCA Inspection Service	329.16	
Office Supplies	868.69	
Motion Picture Machine Supplies	167.94	
Office Equipment	619.52	
Motion Picture Equipment	2,286.50	
Insurance	45.00	
		\$9,053.37
		\$44,814.74

Budget Account (Per Comptroller)

Appropriation, 1948	\$47,106.00	
Refunds (Communication, Item 206)	6.50	
(Office Supplies, Item 304)	11.83	
		\$47,124.33
Less Reversion to Reserve Fund	2,309.59	
General Fund Disbursement		\$44,814.74

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS

TABLE SHOWING TOTAL ANNUAL RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS TOGETHER WITH THE AMOUNTS REVERTING TO THE STATE TREASURY

October 1, 1920 — June 30, 1948

	Receipts	Disbursements	Amount Reverting to State Treasury
10-1-20 to 9-30-21.....	\$ 26,488.33	\$ 19,025.26	\$ 7,463.07
10-1-21 to 9-30-22.....	26,866.90	19,842.12	7,024.78
10-1-22 to 9-30-23.....	27,059.51	19,892.93	7,166.58
10-1-23 to 9-30-24.....	26,338.50	20,730.44	5,608.06
10-1-24 to 9-30-25.....	29,249.50	22,207.24	7,042.26
10-1-25 to 9-30-26.....	30,207.92	22,662.82	7,545.10
10-1-26 to 9-30-27.....	32,498.55	24,883.80	7,614.75
10-1-27 to 9-30-28.....	38,165.57	27,734.69	10,430.88
10-1-28 to 9-30-29.....	44,486.27	32,937.76	11,548.51
10-1-29 to 9-30-30.....	38,954.98	31,718.26	7,236.72
10-1-30 to 9-30-31....	35,245.85	31,816.79	3,429.06
10-1-31 to 9-30-32.....	35,637.44	32,158.81	3,478.63
10-1-32 to 9-30-33.....	35,152.34	34,207.93	944.41
10-1-33 to 9-30-34.....	36,563.00	27,174.49	9,388.51
10-1-34 to 9-30-35.....	39,463.00	27,577.76	11,885.24
10-1-35 to 9-30-36.....	44,073.00	28,927.98	15,145.02
10-1-36 to 9-30-37.....	49,293.00	28,855.10	20,437.90
10-1-37 to 9-30-38.....	48,659.00	30,197.34	18,461.66
10-1-38 to 9-30-39.....	50,180.00	30,302.92	19,877.08
10-1-39 to 9-30-40.....	53,180.00	29,598.72	23,581.28
10-1-40 to 9-30-41.....	55,877.00	30,347.18	25,529.82
10-1-41 to 9-30-42.....	55,561.00	31,135.92	24,425.08
10-1-42 to 6-30-43.....	39,828.00	22,578.29	17,249.71
7-1-43 to 6-30-44.....	55,585.00	35,112.59	20,472.41
7-1-44 to 6-30-45.....	55,054.00	35,090.08	19,963.92
7-1-45 to 6-30-46.....	59,396.00	35,802.90	23,593.10
7-1-46 to 6-30-47.....	65,961.00	42,150.48	23,810.52
7-1-47 to 6-30-48.....	72,832.00	44,814.74	28,017.26
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	\$1,207,856.66	\$819,485.34	\$388,371.32

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
REPORT OF FILMS EXAMINED
July 1, 1947 - June 30, 1948

1947	Films Original	Films Duplicate	Reels Original	Reels Duplicate	No. of Feet Original	No. of Feet Duplicate	Films Approved	Films Rejected	Films Eliminated
July.....	204	1,227	772	4,040	631,150	3,264,462	1,428	...	3
August.....	228	1,376	844	4,569	634,737	3,680,746	1,591	...	13
September.....	215	1,297	757	4,736	599,635	3,829,897	1,502	...	10
October.....	218	1,466	815	4,714	656,253	3,765,592	1,676	...	8
November.....	187	1,170	672	3,602	544,604	3,229,024	1,344	...	13
December.....	195	1,435	800	3,952	656,463	3,993,719	1,615	...	15
1948									
January.....	189	1,451	722	5,055	491,477	4,101,843	1,627	...	13
February.....	208	1,277	781	4,458	630,515	3,620,369	1,462	...	23
March.....	245	1,530	985	5,446	831,016	4,695,745	1,764	...	11
April.....	268	1,578	1,104	5,792	903,485	4,729,302	1,836	...	10
May.....	203	1,247	787	4,547	618,093	3,714,336	1,440	2	8
June.....	205	1,417	818	4,670	670,544	3,806,027	1,608	...	14
TOTALS.....	2,565	16,471	9,857	55,581	7,918,027	46,431,062	18,893	2	141

MARYLAND STATE BOARD OF MOTION PICTURE CENSORS
CLASSIFICATION OF FILMS
July 1, 1947 - June 30, 1948

1947	Dramas	Comedies	News	Cartoons	Adver- tising	Miscel- laneous
July.....	406	183	770	62	3	7
August.....	461	256	790	95	2	..
September...	459	253	702	87	10	1
October.....	422	266	876	113	7	..
November....	375	195	699	67	21	..
December....	478	255	777	117	..	3
1948						
January.....	451	256	794	121	10	8
February.....	423	267	703	89	3	..
March.....	596	236	788	139	14	2
April.....	580	281	817	136	15	17
May.....	456	188	720	80	6	..
June.....	460	252	801	96	13	..
Totals...	5,567	2,888	9,237	1,202	104	38

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Films, Original.....	2,565			
Films, Duplicate.....	16,471			
Reels, Original.....		9,857		
Reels, Duplicate.....		55,581		
Number of Feet, Original..			7,918,027	
Number of Feet, Duplicate.			46,431,062	
Films Approved.....				18,893
Films Rejected.....				2
Films Eliminated.....				141
	19,036	65,438	54,349,089	19,036